



# Department of Pesticide Regulation



Mary-Ann Warmerdam  
Director

Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Governor

March 30, 2007

PML 07-03

TO: County Agricultural Commissioners

SUBJECT: REVISIONS TO THE PRIVATE APPLICATOR RE-CERTIFICATION  
EXAMINATION AND ANSWER KEY

We wish to thank the county agricultural commissioners (CAC) and their staff that submitted comments and questions about the private applicator re-certification examination, PAC.060100.ERC. We found the submissions helpful in making revisions to the examination and answer key. As a result, we corrected the errors in the answer key, and mailed you the corrected version. We also revised several questions in the examination for further clarity and grammatical accuracy.

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**Background in  
developing the  
examinations**

In 2004, a committee of subject matter experts developed a pool of questions for the private applicator certification and re-certification examinations. The committee consisted of:

- one CAC,
- two CAC staff agricultural biologists,
- two certified private applicator growers,
- three University of California farm advisors,
- two Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) staff,
- a representative from the California Agricultural Aircraft Association, and
- a representative from the Farm Employment Labor Service.

The committee met many times to identify pest control tasks performed by private applicators, to develop “knowledge expectations,” and to write new or revised questions for the examination question pool. It was the work of these subject matter experts that resulted in the current examination question pool.

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**County  
agricultural  
commissioner  
involvement in  
future  
examinations**

Even subject-matter-expert-developed examination questions need to be continually assessed for clarity, pass and fail percentages, and other factors. We look to you and your staff for feedback concerning these factors, and welcome your involvement in the process. In order to maintain the integrity of the certification examinations and to ensure the competency of private applicators, we will periodically rotate questions on and off the examinations. We intend to invite CAC representatives later in 2007 to participate in the reviewing and development process for a new certification or re-certification examination question pool.

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**Contact  
information**

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Adolfo Gallo, of my staff, at (916) 445-3895 or at <agallo@cdpr.ca.gov>.

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Sincerely,

*Original signed by*

David Duncan, Chief  
Pest Management and Licensing Branch  
(916) 445-3870

cc: Mr. Adolfo Gallo, DPR Program Specialist  
Mr. James Shattuck, DPR Agricultural Commissioner Liaison